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Use of CIA funds prompts call for ouster at Harvard

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Three members of the executive committee of Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies yesterday called for the dismissal of the center's director amid a continuing university probe into his use of CIA funding for a scholarly conference and a new book.

In a letter delivered yesterday to A. Michael Spence, dean of the faculty, and professor Nadav Safran, the center's director, the three professors charged that Safran's use of CIA funds and his failure to tell colleagues about them had damaged the center's credibility. They also said his action had potentially endangered many of the center's scholars who travel and study abroad.

The letter was signed by Dr. Richard Frye, Aga Khan professor of Iranian, Wolfhart P. Heinrichs, professor of Arabic, and Abdelhamid I. Sabra, professor of the history of Arabic science.

Meanwhile, university officials said yesterday that Spence is still "closely investigating all circumstances" surrounding Safran's contracts with the CIA.

The review covers Safran's use of CIA funds for a conference being held this week on Islamic fundamentalism and his use of \$107,000 in CIA funds to finance a book he wrote on Saudi Arabia's

internal security and foreign policies.

Spence is continuing to review the matter, including the contract for the book published last month by the Harvard University Press, "Saudi Arabia, The Ceaseless Quest for Security," said John Shattuck, vice president for public affairs.

On Friday, Safran said he did not acknowledge the CIA funding in the preface to his book because he was under no legal obligation to do so. He also said he did not grant the agency permission to make unilateral changes in the book without first informing him in writing. Harvard rules for sponsored research forbid professors from accepting funding that involves prepublication censorship.

Frye said that past directors of the center, such as Nur Yalman, had declined to accept funding from the CIA and from Middle Eastern governments because it would endanger the center's credibility.

Not all Harvard faculty members agreed. Professor Joseph Nye of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, a specialist in nuclear proliferation and a former State Department official, said he "saw no problem" with accepting CIA funding as long as the source of the funding could be disclosed and no censorship were involved."